

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02897 160651Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

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R 151316Z APR 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8341

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR GE GR TU XG

SUBJ: TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS AND EGEAN DISPUTE

REF ATHENS 2589 (NOTAL)

1. TAKING ADVANTAGE DEPUTY DIRECTOR EUR/SE LEDSKY PRESENCE
ATHENS FOR BASE NEGOTIATIONSBEN EMBOFF AND LEDSKY CALLED ON
DIMITRI MACRIS APRIL 12. MACRIS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CYPRUS/
TURKISH AFFAIRS, MFA, HAD EARLIER ASKED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE
IN PROVIDING INFORMATION RELEVANT TO BERLIN AIR CORRIDOR

SITUATION (REFTEL), AND ITS POSSIBLE RELATION TO TURKISH
WORKER FLIGHTS.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02897 160651Z

2. LEDSKY AFFORDED MACRIS FULL EXPOSITION OF UNDERLYING

AGREEMENTS RELATING TO AIR SERVICE TO BERLIN THROUGH THREE DESIGNATED CORRIDORS. /MACRIS WELCOMED DETAILED INFORMATION ESPECIALLY AS IT RELATED TO CURRENT BULGARIAN INSISTANCE THAT FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN OR TERMINATING IN WEST BERLIN MUST TOUCH DOWN IN FRG. LEDSFY EXPLAINED THAT BULGARIAN POSITION, THOUGH UNACCEPTABLE TO WEST, PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ALTER THROUGH LEGAL ARGUMENTS.

3. MACRIS SHOWED SENSITIVITY TO DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FRG AS RESULT EXTRA COSTS INCURRED BY WESTERN AIR CARRIERS WHO TRANSPORT TURKISH GUEST WORKERS FROM WEST BERLIN TO ISTANBUL. HE OBVIOUSLY WISHES FIND SOME MENHEN M BY WHICH CURRENT IMPASSE MAY BE RESOLVED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GREEK CLOSURE OF NORTHERN AEGEAN ROUTE (I.E. THESSALONIKI-ISTANBUL AIR CORRIDOR) IN REACTION TO TURKISH NOTAM 714 HAD COMPLICATED SITUATION. HE ARGUED THAT GOG HAD PROPOSED COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO GOT (THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF ICAO) BUT THAT TURKS HAD NOT RESPONDED.

4. MACRIS SUGGESTED HE WISHED TO "ELABORATE" ON VARIOUS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, ONE OF WHICH WAS PROPOSAL TO BULGARIANS THAT AT LEAST ONE LEG OF ROUND TRIP FLIGHTS OVER ITS TERRITORY (WESTBOUND) /NOT REQUIREDTOUCHDOWNIN FRG. MACRIS' IMPLICATION WAS THAT GREEKS MIGHT IN THIS CASE PERMIT EASTBOUND WORKER FLIGHTS TO OVERFLY GREECE. LEDSKY SAID BULGARIANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT CHANGE THEIR POSITION, BUT THAT IF GREECE COULD GRANT EVEN ONE WAY OVERFLIGHT, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE USEFUL STEP FORWARD. MACRIS REPLIED THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT STEP FOR GREECE, SINCE ONCE A CORRIDOR WAS OPENED FOR ANY PURPOSE, IT IS NORMALLY OPENED FOR ALL LEGITIMATE PURPOSES. MACRIS ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF PLANES USING THESSALONIKI AS TERMINUS WITH WORKERS THEN TRAVELLING TO AND FROM ISTANBUL BY TRAIN OR BUS.

5. FACT THAT MACRIS INITIATED REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION AND SO OBVIOUSLY WELCOMED LEDSKY VISIT SUGGESTS THAT NEW INITIATIVES MAY BE FORTHCOMING FROM GREEK SIDE IN EFFORT ACCOMODATE FRG. GREEK PROBLEM OBVIOUSLY THAT OF MAINTAINING FINE BALANCE BETWEEN AIDING ALLY (FRG) AND NOT SHOWING WEAKNESS TO TURKS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AVIATION AGREEMENTS, BERLIN AIR ACCESS, AIR ROUTES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750132-0445
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750447/aaaabrqz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ATHENS 2589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS AND EGEAN DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, GC, GR, TU, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006